

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05807 300159Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SNM-02 FBOE-00 ABF-01
/025 W

-----106440 300201Z /65

R 271400Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5536
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
DEA HQS WASHDC

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JOINT EMBASSY/AAO MESSAGE

DEPT PASS TO AID

FOR AID/LA/CG KESSLER, AID/LA/SA WEBER AND AID/SER/MO/OPM

DEPT. ALSO FOR ARA/MGT

DEA HQS ATTN: ENOA/VAN MATRE, IN/FRANKS, MAS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR EC
SUBJ: RELOCATION OF DEA TO AID LEASED OFFICE SPACE

REFS: A) QUITO 5732; B) QUITO 5225, C) STATE 156066;
D) STATE 163061

1. THE AMBASSADOR DETERMINED SOME TIME AGO THAT DEA
AND WHAT IS NOW THE AID/NARCOTICS CONTROL DIVISION
(AID/NCD) SHOULD BE LOCATED TOGETHER IN ORDER TO ENHANCE
COORDINATION AND PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS. STATE, DEA
AND AID/ECUADOR AGREE TO PHYSICAL LOCATION OF DEA
AND AID/NCD ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE SECOND AND THIRD
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FLOORS CURRENTLY BEING LEASED BY AID IN A BUILDING CON-
VENIENTLY LOCATED TO THE CHANCERY. DEA APPROVED FUNDS
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A VAULT AT THIS LOCATION, AND
HAS ALREADY AUTHORIZED SHIPMENT OF A VAULT DOOR FROM
CARACAS. THE PLANS WERE FOR AID TO RETAIN THE LEASE
WITH THE LANDLORD FOR BOTH FLOORS AND FOR DEA TO PAY
ITS SHARE OF THE RENT.

2. THESE PLANS HAVE NOW BEEN PLACED IN QUESTION BY CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE CREATED UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE SIZE AND NATURE OF THE AID PROGRAM, WITH A CONSEQUENT AND UNDERSTANDABLE RELUCTANCE OF AID TO PROCEED WITH THE PLANS MADE TO ACHIEVE CO-LOCATION OF DEA AND WHAT IS NOW AID/NCD. THESE DEVELOPMENTS, ABOUT WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED IN SOME INSTANCES BY CABLE AND IN OTHERS BY THE "GRAPEVINE", ARE:

A) THE DECISION THAT ALL AID NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO STATE BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 1977 AND OCTOBER 1, 1978; BUT AS YET NO SCHEDULE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED;

B) IN ADDITION TO A PROJECTED DECREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE AID AFFAIRS OFFICE BECAUSE OF THE FUTURE REMOVAL OF AID/NCD, THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN IN WASHINGTON TO A RE-BUILDING OF AN AID PROGRAM WITH AN EXPANDED STAFF IN ECUADOR.

3. THE EMBASSY FEELS STRONGLY THAT DEA AND AID/NCD SHOULD BE LOCATED TOGETHER, AND PERHAPS BE INTEGRATED INTO A SINGLE NARCOTICS UNIT ONCE AID/NCD PASSES TO STATE. THERE IS NOT ROOM FOR CO-LOCATION OF THESE TWO OFFICES IN THE CHANCERY. THE EMBASSY FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEVES THAT THE SPACE NOW LEASED BY AID IS PRIME IN TERMS OF LOCATION, FLEXIBILITY OF USE, AND COST; AND THAT THE USG WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO HOLD ON TO BOTH FLOORS NOW LEASED BY AID UNTIL WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF THE FUTURE NEEDS OF AID.

4. THE TWO FLOORS NOW UNDER LEASE EXCEED IN SPACE THE AMOUNT REQUIRED BY THE USG FOR DEA, THE AID/NCD, AND THE AID AFFAIRS OFFICE DURING THE COMING YEAR UNTIL WE KNOW MORE PRECISELY THE SIZE OF THE FUTURE AID PROGRAM. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE EXCESS SPACE COULD BE UTILIZED BY AID DURING THE COMING YEAR FOR WAREHOUSE. AID IS UNDER NOTICE THAT IT MUST GIVE UP ITS CURRENT WAREHOUSE; AND IT NEEDS STORAGE SPACE FOR HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, APPLIANCES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AGAINST THE POSSIBLE FUTURE OF AN EXPANDED PROGRAM. THE CURRENT COST OF THE OFFICE SPACE COMPARES FAVORABLY TO ESTIMATED COST OF A NEW WAREHOUSE LEASE;)

5. BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE CITED FACTORS, THE EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES THE USG SHOULD RETAIN THE TWO FLOORS NOW LEASED BY AID FOR LOCATION OF DEA, AID/NCD, THE AID AFFAIRS

OFFICE, FOR WAREHOUSE SPACE AND AGAINST ANY FUTURE BUILD-
UP OF THE AID PROGRAM HERE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. THAT THE USG CONTINUE TO LEASE
BOTH FLOORS AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT-AID RESOLVE AS RAPIDLY
AS POSSIBLE WHO WILL BE THE USG LEASING AGENCY AND THE
DIVISION OF COSTS SO THAT WE CAN MOVE ON TO A MORE
EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED NARCOTICS PROGRAM.
BLOOMFIELD

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